

THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.



AUGUSTA:
THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 24, 1856.

GOOD SEED WHEAT.

From the experience of the two past seasons, on wheat raising, it seems that the ravages of the weevil have very much diminished, and our farmers are beginning to have crops of wheat somewhat like those of former times. On the supposition that the weevil has had its day among us, and is about leaving our fields, we hope, forever, it is well to go into wheat culture somewhat extensively the coming season, and now is the time to make sure of good seed to sow.

Among the new varieties which are now coming into use are the Java, so called which is a spring variety, and the Scotch Fife, also a spring grain. Our friend Moses Taber, of Vassalboro' raised the Java. Our friend J. W. Patterson, of this city raises the Scotch Fife.

We are happy also to report our readers who are in pursuit of good seed wheat to the advertisement of Mr. Coombs, in our advertising columns.

Having had calls for seed wheat, Mr. C. took a trip into Canada to obtain the best variety in that section, and has just returned with four hundred bushels of beautiful Fife wheat. Two hundred of this he has deposited with D. Woodard, in this city, and two hundred he takes to his place of business, Branch Mills, in China. He has left a specimen of it at our office which is very good indeed. We have Mr. C.'s permission to publish the following certificate and letter from Mr. Drummond, an extensive farmer near Montreal who raised the wheat and of whom Mr. C. purchased. The prices of the varieties which we have mentioned is \$4.00 per bushel.

"I, a farmer as above, certify that I sold to Mr. Wm. Coombs, of Palermo, Maine, several hundred bushels of Wheat called Scotch Fife spring wheat, sown about the first of May, if ground is in good order, if not, from twentieth of May, to first of June, to avoid the fly or weevil, this year the crop is about twenty five bushels to the acre, from a bushel and one peck sowing. I have raised this season over one thousand bushels of the same. This wheat ripens in about three months and fifteen days, and is the only wheat in this vicinity free from rust. It is allowed to make the best of flour, being thin in hull and of best quality."

John DUMMOND.

Montreal, January 11, 1856.

STATE REFORM SCHOOL.

The second annual report of the Trustees of this institution is published, but as we have not yet received a copy of it, or, indeed, of any of the annual reports, except the School Commissioners which we shall notice in our next, we are obliged to depend on our contemporaries for a knowledge of its contents. We make the following abstract from the Bangor Whig:

The report states that the school is now nearly as full as its accommodations will admit of. The effects of the discipline and instruction are beneficial in a marked degree, but the Trustees recommend that 16 years, instead of 18, be adopted as the maximum age of boys sent there, as those of the latter age are not so susceptible of improvement, and many of them are apt to exercise a deleterious influence upon the younger boys. It is also found that a larger proportion of them become permanent inmates, to the exclusion, in the present full state of the School, of younger and more promising cases.

On the 1st of December, 1855, the number of inmates was 234, of whom 148 were admitted during the year. There were discharged during the same time, 27. Since the opening of the school there have been admitted 205, as follows: By order of the Supreme Court, 28; by Courts in Portland, 61; Bangor, 45; Gardner, 16; Bath, 15; Augusta, 10; Hallowell, 6; Rockland, 7; Biddeford, 9; Calais, 2; Belfast, 1; by orders from Justices of the peace in other towns, 65.

The different counties have contributed their quota as follows: Androscoggin, 5; Cumberland, 83; Franklin, 7; Hancock, 1; Kennebec, 42; Lincoln, 11; Oxford, 3; Penobscot, 65; Piscataquis, 1; Saco, 1; Sebasticook, 16; Waldo, 6; Washington, 12; York, 30.

The terms of commitment were as follows:—During minority, 93; one year, 25; two years, 35; three years, 30; four years, 33; five years, 27; six years, 7; seven years, 7; eight years, 4; and each for nine, ten, and twelve years.

The offences for which they were committed, were—for larceny, 146; vagrancy, 33; "common runaways," 46; truancy, 9; and the balance for various offences.

The nativity of these boys is as follows: Born in Maine, 132; in other States, 35; in foreign countries, 34. Of those born in this country, 33 are of foreign parentage.

Sixty-one of the boys are under 12 years of age, and two of them are only 7.

It is stated, also, that 120 have either an infirm temperate father or mother, or both; 84 have been in the habit of drinking, themselves; and 113 have never attended Sabbath School.

With respect to the expenses of the School, the Trustees say that an additional sum of \$7000 will be necessary to defray expenses up to April, 1, 1856; and that for the year ending April 1, 1857, an appropriation of \$24,351 is needed, after allowing \$2,500 for the labor done by the boys.

One fact, which speaks well for the labor and discipline of the school, and its healthful situation, is that since its opening there has been but one death among its members, and no other serious case of illness.

The improvement made in education, has been rapid and marked. As a general thing, the boys prefer farm work to any other, and its tendency is to make them contented and happy. Fourteen thousand days' work has been performed by the boys. In the tailor's shop 4423 articles have been made, and 12,519 repaired.

A Sabbath School, under the charge of ladies and gentlemen from Portland, has been regularly held.

With regard to candidates for admission, the Superintendent recommends that any two of the Trustees may have power to reject a boy, or remand him to his alternative sentence.

Mr. Lincoln, the Superintendent, appears to be well fitted for his office, which we consider one of no small importance, and to faithfully discharge his duties.

WRECK SOLD. The wreck of barque Occident, before reported ashore near the mouth of Kennebec River, was sold at auction, as she lay, for \$180. Her sails, rigging, anchor, &c., brought \$1,427. The cargo remaining aboard, consisted of 25,000 hides and 10,000 horns.

STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The following is a condensed report of the doings of the State Agricultural Society, now in session in this city.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 16.

The Executive Committee of the Maine State Agricultural Society commenced their annual session in this city on the 16th inst.

The following gentlemen constitute the present board:—

Samuel Butman, Plymouth, President.

S. L. Goodale, York Society,

John Sawyer, Cumberland,

Robert Martin, Androscoggin,

Darius Forbes, Oxford,

James Walker, West Oxford,

Lorin Adams, Franklin,

Rufus Bixby, West Somerset,

Elezee Crocker, East Somerset,

Warren Percival, North Kennebec,

Horace Parlin, Kennebec,

George Williamson, South Kennebec,

Charles D. Gilman, Sagadahoc,

Thomas Simmonds, Lincoln,

Horace McKinney, Waldo,

Matthew H. French, West Penobscot,

Ezekiel F. Crane, Penobscot,

Wm. R. Hersey, North Penobscot,

Samuel Darling, Penobscot and Aroostook Union,

J. W. Carr, Bangor Horticultural,

Calvin Chamberlain, Piscataquis,

Joseph W. Hains, North Aroostook,

Wm. D. Dana, Washington,

Daniel A. Fairbanks, Me. Pom. and Hort.,

Messrs. Crocker, Chamberlain and Percival were chosen a committee to advise in regard to the next Show and Fair.

The report of several committees chosen at the last meeting were made and accepted.

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THE LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.



ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICA.

The steamship America arrived at Halifax on Wednesday of last week, bringing dates from Europe to the 5th inst. We present the following synopsis of her news:

GERALD BRITAIN. The London journals are unusually barren of political intelligence. The European Times is filled with annual trade and commercial reports—wool, cotton, timber, hides, tobacco, &c. As a general thing these reports are more favorable than might have been expected in a state of war—and an engineering and costly war as that which England is now engaged in. Commerce has been a sufferer in the deadly struggle, and both domestic and foreign trade have experienced acutely the natural effects of a transition from a state of peace to that of destructive hostilities; but it would appear that mercantile interests have suffered less than was anticipated.

The London Times contains a long article on the past, present and future of the financial affairs of the country, in which an attempt is made to show that notwithstanding the burdens of war, the country has maintained a course of commercial prosperity fully equal to the average of ordinary times; and a belief is confidently expressed that, with ordinary care, the monetary condition of the country is impregnable.

FRANCE. Saturday, 29th ult., was the grand military fete of the entry into Paris of the regiments of the Crimea. Immense crowds thronged the streets, and triumphant arches were abundant; the troops marched amid the enthusiasm of the people, and formed around the column of July. The regiments were the 20th, 39th, and 50th of the line, who distinguished themselves at the Malakoff; Chasseurs, Zouaves, two regiments of Voltigeurs, and Artillery of the Guards, ten regiments of the Grenadiers, and the Gardes-du-Corps. The Emperor, accompanied by the Prince Napoleon, rode to the palace Debasville, where he addressed the soldiery.

The allied army defeated before the Empress and Empress, Marshals Wagnon and Courbier, and the Court. Every soldier in Paris received ten francs gratuity.

Admiral Lyons and General Marmont are in Paris.

TREASURY. Trade show is imported \$5,125,226,229; do 430; in favor of the U.S. is given \$8, of free specie and \$3,144,642, imports of the California gold, during June \$305,000, showing a decrease from the fiscal or the previous year. It will be paid in the year 1834 27,539,180, the imports.

DENMARK. The Danish government is reported to have consented to the establishment of depots of stores for the English fleet at Kiel, and the English fleet is to rendezvous there in April.

Russia. The Czar has ordered the commandants of garrisons in the Baltic provinces, to report the names of defectors to the grand council of war now in session at St. Petersburg. Contracts are advertised for immense quantities of artillery stores, &c. New rifle regiments are being enrolled. Emancipation is offered as a bribe to the serf, while some restrictions imposed by the Czar have been repealed.

The publication of the Austrian Concordat has been prohibited lest it should cause religious discontent. The Czar has also issued a decree conferring on peasants the right to possess land, which is to be given to them in the same manner as the secret article of the treaty. Sweden will openly take the field with the allies in the spring. Sweden has on hand some millions of thalers surplus revenue, which is to be devoted to equip the army and navy.

MOSCOW. The Danish government is reported to have consented to the establishment of depots of stores for the English fleet at Kiel, and the English fleet is to rendezvous there in April.

SWEDEN. From Sweden the accounts are very warlike. Commanders have received instructions, marked private, to refuse leave of absence, and to have regiments in the highest state of efficiency by the spring. Military and naval manufactures go on, and indications are that, in accordance with the secret article of the treaty, Sweden will openly take the field with the allies in the spring. Sweden has on hand some millions of thalers surplus revenue, which is to be devoted to equip the army and navy.

INDIA AND CHINA. The arrival of the India mail ship, the "India," in Boston, after a battle had occurred at Oude between the fanatic insurgents and the British troops, under Capt. Borlton, assisting the troops of the King of Oude, Nov. 2d. 500 dead were left on the field, and the insurgents were dispersed, but the country is yet unsettled. Martial law has been proclaimed in the Santal districts. The Santal insurrection is not suppressed, but is no longer dangerous.

Herat has been taken by the Persians. This causes much excitement, as Herat is the key of Northern India. An expedition up the Persian Gulf, to compel Persia to give up her conquest, is in preparation.

CHINA. The order prohibiting the export of saltpetre from India, except to England, is loudly complained against.

Chinese politics to Nov. 15th unchanged. British ship Invincible, Shanghai to London, sank the American ship A. Cheasborough during a gale. It is reported that the American Consul declined to take cognizance of the catastrophe.

Serious difficulty has arisen at Hong Kong between Mr. Keenan, the American Consul, and the local authorities. The trouble arose by British Police of Port apprehending E. W. Nichols, master of American ship Reindeer, and his crew, for having committed a robbery at sea, and the Indians, who were held in prison, and that he attempted to persevere to the race from

much space;

8,730,474
8,252,115
15,815,283
6,264,163
37,558,412
1,449,000
\$1,483
\$1,505,112
1,801
\$17,340

to be brought

to this port inst.

Baltimore, Wednesday to this morning, to bring this news to the court of justice. The American government. A number of additional editorials and several editorials in prison. Vaca in Sierra Nevada to Co. Vida. Vida is in the mountains. He al-

ways has been a man of great talents. He is in the mountains, and he is in the mountains.

WASHINGON. Wash-

ington, no such ques-

re intercourse relations with our neighbors. The negotiations with the Spanish, perhaps, are the most important. The negotiations with the Spanish, perhaps, are the most important.

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Funchal, Ma-

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the time, and will be

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

The Muse.

For the Maine Farmer.

"DEAR SISTER."

Affectionately inscribed to Helen.

BY FREDERIC WRIGHT.

Is that dear hallow'd name there is a sound
More sweet to me than chimes of silver bells,
Or golden harping; or the voice profound
Of calm love-laden nature as she tells.

Her depth of rapture to the heavenly spheres,
At summer eve, or spring's resplendent morn!

It sooths my sorrow and it dries my tears—
Who hath a sister cannot be forlorn!

A mother's love! of that I may not speak;—
I never knew its blessedness, not I.

A father's feeling may be strong or weak;

As aims progress, or disappointments try;

A brother, he shall aid thee, may be not.

"Tis well if kindness prove not a name;
Friends may be bad, but friendship has its blot,

The bright it's 'tacheon and the fair it's fame!

But in a sister's wealth of love thou'lt find
The mother's yearning, and the father's tone,

Friendship is there, and more than brother kind,

Blent with a sweetnessthat is all her own.

Hers is affection nothing else can brighten;

Hers is a truth t'is never will deceive!

Guilt, shame and sorrow spread in vain their might,

Nought part her from thee but the yawning grave!

I had a sister once—but she is gone!

Gone in her beauty, gentleness and grace!

And ever since, I've trod life's path alone,

Nor seen a smile upon a kindred face.

"Great was my grief, but deeper still my loss;

And length'nig years but make it deeper grow.

The last lone remnant of an ancient house—

Who cares for him, the weary pilgrim now!

O, be thou then, my gentle friend, O be

That sister, to my panting, yearning heart,

Yet teach me first how true and worthy,

Fain would I learn, if then woul't only teach—

Aye, nobly strive, do thou but point the way,

Reliust the lust of all good to re—

The just to honor, and the wise obey.

Wegadis, N. Y., Dec., 1855.

The Story-Teller.

From the Holly-Tree Inn (Dickens's Christmas Stories).

THE BOOTS.

Where has he been in his time? he repeated when I asked him the question. Lord, he had been everywhere! And what had he been? Bless you, he had been everything you could mention a'most.

Seen a good deal? Why, of course he had. I should say so, he could assure me, if I only knew about a twentieth part of what had come in his way. Why, it would be easier for him, he expected, to tell what he hadn't seen, than what he had. Ah! a deal, it would.

What was the curiosest thing he had seen? Well! He didn't know. He couldn't momentally name what was the curiosest thing he had seen—unless it was a Unicorn—and he see him once, at a Fair. But, supposing a young gentleman not eight years old, was to run away with a fine young woman of seven, might I think that a queer start? Certainly. Then that was a start to himself had had his blessed eyes on—and he had cleaned the shoes they run away in—and they were so little that he couldn't get his hand into 'em.

Master Harry Walmers's father, you see, he lived at the Elmes, down away by Shooter's Hill there, six or seven miles from Lunnon. He was a gentleman of spirit, and good looking, and held his head up when he walked, and had what you may call Fire about him. He wrote poetry, and he rode, and he ran, and he cricketed, and he danced, and he acted, and he done it all equally beautiful. He was uncommon proud of Master Harry as was his only child; but he didn't spoil him, neither. He was a gentleman that had a will of his own and a eye of his own, and that would be minded. Consequently, though he made quite a companion of the fine bright boy, and was delighted to see his fond of reading his fairy books, and was never tired of hearing him say my name is Norval, or hearing him sing his song about Young May Moons is beaming love, and when he as adores them has left but the name, and that: still he kept the command over the child, and the child was child, and it's to be wished more of 'em was!

How did Boots happen to know this? Why, through being under-gardener. Of course he couldn't be under-gardener, and be always about, in the Summer-time, near the windows on the lawn, a mowing, and sweeping, and weeding, and pruning, and this and that, without getting acquainted with the ways of the family. Even supposing Master Harry hadn't come to high one morning early, and said, "Cobbs, how should you spell Norah, if you was asked?" and then begun cutting it in print, print, print!

He couldn't say he had taken particular notice of children before that; but, really it was pretty to see them two mites a going about the place together, deep in love. And the courage of the boy! Bless your soul, he'd have thrown off his little hat, and tucked up his little sleeves, and gone at a Lion, he would, if they had happened to meet one and all had been frightened of him. One day he stops, along with her, where Boots was hoeing weeds in the gravel, and says—speaking, "Cobbs," he says, "I like you." "Do you, sir? I'm proud to hear it."

"Yes, I do, Cobbs. Why do I like you, do you think, Cobbs?" "Don't know, Master Harry, I am sure." "Because Norah likes you, Cobbs."

"Indeed, sir. That's very gratifying." "Gratifying, Cobbs? It's better than millions of the brightest diamonds, to be liked by Norah."

"Certainly, sir." "You're going away, ain't you, Cobbs?" "Well, sir, I shouldn't object, if it was a good 'un." "Then, Cobbs," says he, "you shall be our Head Gardener when we are married." And he tucks her, in her sky-blue manle, under his arm and walks away.

Boots could assure me that it was better than a pister, and a play to, say to them babies with their long bright curling hair, their sparkling eyes, and their beautiful light tread, a rambling about the garden, deep in love. Boots was of opinion that the birds believed they was birds, and kept up with 'em, singing to please 'em. Sometimes, they would creep under the Tulip-tree, and would sit there with their arms round one another's necks, and their soft cheeks touching, a reading about the Prince, and the king's fair daughter. Sometimes, he would hear them planning about having a house in a forest, keeping bees and a cow, and living entirely on milk and honey. Once, he came upon them by the pond, and heard Master Harry say, "Adorable Norah, kiss me, and say you love me to distraction, or I'll jump in head foremost!" And Boots made no question, he would have done it, if she hadn't complied. On the whole, Boots said it had a tendency to make him feel as if he was in love himself—only he didn't exactly know who it was.

"Cobbs," said Master Harry, one evening, when Cobbs was watering the flowers; "I am going on a visit, this present Midsummer, to my grandmamma's at York."

"Are you indeed, Sir! I hope you'll have a pleasant time. I am going into Yorkshire myself, when I leave here."

"Are you going to your grandmamma's Cobbs?"

"No, sir. I haven't got such a thing."

"Not as a grandmamma, Cobbs?"

"No, sir."

The boy looked on at the watering of the flowers, for a little while, and then said, "I shall be very glad indeed to go, Cobbs—Norah's going."

"You'll be all right then, sir," says Cobbs, "with your beautiful sweetheath by your side."

"Cobbs," returned the boy, flushing, "I never let anybody joke about it, when I can prevent them."

"It wasn't a joke, sir," says Cobbs with humility, "—wasn't so meant."

"I am glad of that, Cobbs, because I like you, and know, you're going to live with us—Cobbs!"

"Sir."

"What do you think my grandmamma gives me, when I go down there?"

"I couldn't so much as make a guess, sir."

"A Bank of England five-pound note, Cobbs."

"Whew!" says Cobbs, "that's a spanking sum of money, Master Harry."

"A person could do a good deal with such a sum of money as that. Couldn't a person, Cobbs?"

"I believe you, sir!"

"Cobbs," said the boy, "I'll tell you a secret. At Norah's house, they have been joking her about me, and pretending to laugh at our being engaged. Pretending to make game of it, Cobbs!"

"Such, sir," said Cobbs, "is the depravity of human nature."

The boy, looking exactly like his father, stood for a few minutes with his glowing face towards the sunset, and then departed with "Good-night, Cobbs. I'm going in."

"If I was to ask Boots how it happened that he was a going to leave that place just at that present time, well, he couldn't rightly answer me. He did suppose he might have stayed there till now, if he had been anyways inclined. But, you see, he was younger then and he wanted change. That's what he wanted—change. Mr. Walmers, he said, to him, when he give him notice of his intentions to leave, "Cobbs," he says, "leave you anything to complain of?" I make the inquiry, because if I find that any of my people really has anything to complain of, I wish to make it right if I can." "No, sir," says Cobbs; "thank me as I could, I find myself well situated here as I could to myself to be anywhere. The truth is, sir, that I'm a going to seek my fortune." "O, indeed, Cobbs?" he says; "I hope you may find it." And Boots could assure me—which he did, touching his hair with his boot-jack, as a salve in the way of his present calling—that he hadn't found it yet.

"Well, Sir! Boots left the Elmes when his time was up, and Master Harry went down to the old lady's at York, which old lady would have given that child the teeth out of her head (if she had had any), she was so wrapt up in him. What does that Infant do—for Infant you may call him and be within the mark—but cut away from that old lady's with his Norah, on an expedition to go to Gretna Green and be married!

Sir, Boots was at this identical Holly-Tree Inn (having left it several times since to better himself, but always come back through one thing or other), when, one Summer afternoon, the coach drives up, and out of the coach gets the old lady, and poor little Mrs. Harry Walmers Junior is fast asleep. There, the father lifts the child up to the pillow and he lays his little face down for an instant by the little warm face of poor unconscious little Mrs. Harry Walmers Junior, and gently draws it to him—a sight so touching to the chambermaids who are peeping through the door, that one of them calls out "It's a shame to part 'em!" But this chambermaid was always, Boots informs me, a good-hearted one. Not that there was any harm in that girl. Far from it.

Finally, Boots says, that's all about it. Mr. Walmers drove away in the chaise, having bold of Master Harry's hand. The elderly lady is seated by the bed, and poor little Mrs. Harry Walmers Junior is fast asleep. There, the father lifts the child up to the pillow and he lays his little face down for an instant by the little warm face of poor unconscious little Mrs. Harry Walmers Junior, and gently draws it to him—a sight so touching to the chambermaids who are peeping through the door, that one of them calls out "It's a shame to part 'em!" But this chambermaid was always, Boots informs me, a good-hearted one. Not that there was any harm in that girl. Far from it.

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After breakfast, Boots is inclined to consider that they drew soldiers—at least, he knows that many such was found in the fire-place, all on horseback.

"Begging your pardon, sir," says Cobbs, "then really is Love Lane. And a pleasant walk it is, and proud shall I be to show it to yourself and Mrs. Harry Walmers Junior."

"Norah, dear," said Master Harry, "this is curious. We really ought to see Love Lane. Put on your bonnet, my sweetest darling, and we will go there with Cobus."

"Yes, sir," says Cobbs, "that shall be done directly!"

So, Boots goes upstairs to the Angel, and there finds Master Harry on an enormous sofa—

immense at any time, but looking like the Great God of Ware, compared with him—a dry-eyed thesseye of Miss Norah with his pocket-handkerchief. Their little legs was entirely off the ground, of course, and it really is not possible for Boots to express to how small these children looked.

"It's Cobbs! it's Cobbs!" cries Master Harry, and comes running to him and catching hold of his hand. Miss Norah comes running to him on t'other side and catching hold of his t'other hand, and they both jumped for joy.

"I see you a getting out, sir," says Cobbs.

"I thought it was you. I thought I couldn't be mistaken in your height and figure. What's the object of your journey, sir? Matrimonial?"

"We are going to be married, Cobbs, at Gretna Green."

"Indeed, sir. That's very gratifying."

"Gratifying, Cobbs? It's better than millions of the brightest diamonds, to be liked by Norah."

"Certainly, sir."

"You're going away, ain't you, Cobbs?"

"Well, sir, I shouldn't object, if it was a good 'un."

"Then, Cobbs," says he, "you shall be our Head Gardener when we are married."

And he tucks her, in her sky-blue manle, under his arm and walks away.

Boots leaves me to judge what the amazement of that establishment was when those tiny creatures all alone by themselves marched into the Angel; much more so, when he, who had seen them without their seeing him, gave the Governor his views of the expedition they was upon. "Cobbs," says the Governor, "this is so, I must set off to myself to York and quiet their friends, minds. In which case you must keep your eyes upon 'em, and humor them, as that they draw soldiers—at least, he knows that many such was found in the fire-place, all on horseback."

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